

Appln. No. 10/650,662

Amendment in Reply to the Final Office action dated Oct. 20, 2005

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph numbered [0017] with the following paragraph:

[0017] Associated with each set of the table supporting wheels 36 on the underside of each of the tables 30, 32 and 34 as shown in FIG. 7, are linear rotary bearing assemblies 38 as shown in FIG. 7 which are slidable along and rotatable on fixed shafts 39 mounted on the platform support frame 26, ~~[[.]] which is also~~ Also provided with on the support frame 26 is a pair of ball screw drive systems 40 and 42 extending therefrom at right angle to each other as shown in FIG. 7. Thus, as shown in FIG. 7A, the tables 30, 32 and 34 may be displaced relative to each other in two 90° related directions from its central neutral position to a limited extent. The tables 30, 32 and 34 may accordingly be adjustably repositioned while on the pier 12 in 90° related directions into alignment with the crane spreader bar 25 while providing a bearing supported surface thereon for the container 20 to be transferred therefrom onto the crane boom 14.

Please replace paragraph numbered [0018] with the following paragraph:

[0018] Also provided on the opposite sides of the platform frame 26 at the locations of the support wheels 36 are pairs of vertically extending laterally spaced pairs of triangular plates 44 having sensor elements 46 mounted at the upper ends thereof and operationally interconnected as diagrammed in FIG. 5 to form sensing grid or arrays 48 for locationally positioning of the platform table 30, 32 or 34 with the truck 24 and the container 20 thereon ~~on the platform 22~~ so as to maintain the same aligned position of the platform table 30, 32 or 34 relative to the crane

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spreader bar 25 regardless of the prior initial positioning of the platform 22 by the truck 24.
Transfer of the container 20 between the platform 22 and the crane boom 14 is thereby
accommodated.

Please replace paragraph numbered [0019] with the following paragraph:

[0019] In view of the foregoing described arrangement, the platform 22 may be moved into position between the legs 16 of the crane 10 by the truck 24 which is then disengaged therefrom. Another one of the trucks 24 with the container 20 thereon may then drive up one of the ramps 28 onto the previously positioned platform 22 as shown in FIGS. 1 and 2. Through the sensor grid 48, the upper corners of the container 20 are located to provide signals for control of the drive systems 40 and 42 so as to optimize positioning each of the platform tables 30, 32 and 34 by displacement in the two 90° related directions in order to align the container 20 with the spreader bar 25 for lifting thereof from the platform 22, followed by the truck 24 being driven off the platform ramp 28 at the platform departure end, opposite the approach end. The tables 30, 32 and 34 may then be realigned through the drive systems 40 and 42 to the initial neutral position before another container loaded truck 24 drives onto the platform 22 to begin another repeated container transfer process with enhanced efficiency and reliability.